

The following items held by Howard C. Smith, 11a Roy Street, Tawa, Wellington.

Mr Smith authorised the copies to be made for inclusion in this archive, and for copies of selected items to be made available to Dr Mary Croarken, Warwick University and Sackler Fellow, Centre for Maritime Research, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London. Dr Croarken's published papers about L J Comrie are recorded elsewhere in the archive. Not all items were copied for her, as she already has most of the printed items.

Mr Smith is Comrie's nephew and has also prepared the details of the relationship of the various members of the Comrie families.

Mr Smith had earlier presented to Alexander Turnbull Library copies of four Comrie publications of tables presented to him by his uncle.

1] Photo of LJC endorsed on original '1919 or 1920' in ball point pen. This informal 'snap' bears a much earlier endorsement in pencil, partially hidden by paper fragments suggesting it was once included in an album, reading 'At 114 Cornell Av.' Comrie lived in Cambridge in 1919-20, but there is no Cornell Av. in Cambridge but there is in Swarthmore, Pa. (Croarken, via email) where Comrie taught 1922-1924.

Email enquires to the Registrar to Swarthmore College elicited the following:

Thank you for your inquiry concerning Leslie John Comrie. His appointment letter of 1923 is directed to Comrie at Swarthmore College--no home address given. A Swarthmore Borough Directory of 1925-26 (there is no directory for the earlier period) lists the occupant of 114 Cornell as Prof. Jack Salter, University of Pennsylvania. The house still stands, but except for a deed search in the County archives--which would only reveal the succession of owners and not renters--there is no way to more closely date your photograph. In fact, many professors at Swarthmore--then as well as now--rented homes for short periods of time.

This photograph was probably taken by Comrie's first wife, handwriting suggests it was endorsed by him, and sent to his mother.

2] Photo endorsed '1950 Dec 8 R. A. S. Dining Club' Second endorsement-different hand: 'Last photo of Les Comrie before he died Dec 10 or 11 1950' [The date format year month day (1950 Dec 8) was and still is widely used by astronomers]

3] P/c (full size two A4 sheets) of the formal advice from Royal Society to Comrie of his election FRS dated 17 March 1950

4] Reprint Obituary Journal BAS 61 5 132-134 1951 April [not included in archive]

5] P/c assorted press clippings or announcements about LJC's FRS [probably from NZ Herald but not checked]

6] P/c typed Statement of LJC 's training and experience up to 1930 with an endorsement in LJC's hand [the original carbon copy so faint that it could not be photocopied, but included here as a re-typed item]

7] P/c Item from *The New Zealand News* Feb 9 1932 p4 entitled Mechanising Greenwich. Context [implies interview with LJC].

8] Cutting p.10 *Illustrated* Jan 10 1942 entitled 'Girls do world's hardest sums'. Two photos of Comrie's female staff and one of LJC. [Supporting text discusses Comrie's employment of young women with special facility in mathematics]

9] Typed item 'Extract from "Who's Who" 1938 Edition [note omission of any reference to first marriage and first son]

- 10] mimeographed copy of typed extract from 'The Observatory' 69, 850, 1949 June 116-118 about mathematical tables - author D H Sadler [not included in archive]
- 11] P/c Four-page leaflet SCS Ltd - List of staff 1938 September included location map of Bedford Square
- 12] Reprint from *J Sci Instruments* 21 8 Aug 1944 [not included in archive: listed in Croarken's *Early Scientific Computing in Britain* bibliography]
- 13] P/c LJC's Broadcast in New Zealand
- 14] Carbon copy entitled 'For Dictionary of National Biography author identified by initials 'DHS' [D H Sadler was a Superintendent of the Nautical Almanac Office, and also wrote a full obituary in an astronomical journal]
- 15] 16-pp booklet *Scientific Computing Services Limited / 1938 / A description of its activities, equipment and staff* [Includes 4 ½ pp of publications by staff, segregated by individuals]
- 16] Reprint from *Nature* 139 p851 May 15 1937 'Calculating Machines in Scientific Computing' [not included in archive]
- 17] P/c first page only of reprint from *The Mathematical Gazette* July 1946 Review of 'An index of mathematical tables' Fletcher, Millar and Rosenhead signed T.A.A.B. [p2,3 of review deal with details of contents etc.: listed in Croarken's *Early Scientific Computing in Britain* bibliography. Note particularly reference to Comrie's skill as table maker, and footnote about table typography]
- 18] Booklet - *Mechanical Computing* / by L.J.Comrie, Ph. D., F.R.S. / Being Appendix I of the fourth (revised) edition of / David Clark's / *Plane and Geodetic Surveying : Vol II / Revised (1950) by James Glendinning, / O.B.E., B.Sc. (Eng)., A.M. Inst. C.E. (Surveyor-/ General, Gold Coast, 1926-1938) / Constable & Co. Ltd / 10 & 12 Orange Street, London, W.C.2* [no date] [not included in archive: copy in Carter Observatory library]
- 19] Reprint *Mathematical Tables and Other Aids in Computing* II, 15, July and 16 Oct 1946 [not included in archive: listed in Croarken's *Early Scientific Computing in Britain* bibliography]
- 20] reprint from *The Blackheath Local Guide* Dec 30 1950 reports mourners at funeral and [supplied] brief account of his professional life and details of his family
- 21] Letter from Garry Tee to Howard Smith with some anecdotal materials about LJC and attaching copies of Tee's papers mentioning or principally about Comrie. [not included in archive: some already deposited with Alexander Turnbull Library or available from University of Auckland]
- 22] P/c of framed text about Comrie adjacent to his photograph on the wall of the Comrie Computing Laboratory, University of Auckland
- 22] P/c of page from *University of Auckland News* Feb 2001 reporting Comrie lecture, includes photo of several Comrie relations, including John Comrie, who attended the lecture.
- 23] Copy of Mary Croarken's letter of 1 November 2000 to Julian Comrie , attached email from Tee, and Julian Comrie's reply
- 24] P/c of formal portrait of Comrie (with walking stick) [almost certainly scanned from a publication] [Believed to be the source of the framed LJC item on the wall in the Comrie Computing Laboratory, University of Auckland] [not included in archive]

[P/c and notes prepared by Lindsay J Rollo, March 2002 while items were on from H.C.Smith]